

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

October 9, 2012

DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH AND DISABILITY MENTORING DAY

On September 29, 1987, the Board proclaimed October 1987 as the first Disability Awareness Month and urged all residents to assist in the movement to involve persons with disabilities in the mainstream of community life.

Furthermore, in conjunction with the observance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, in October 2002, the Board proclaimed October 16, 2002 as the first county-wide Disability Mentoring Day. This special day was designated to provide an opportunity to recognize the talents, skills, and dedication of disabled Americans who are a vital part of our workforce. It also demonstrated to the general public and gave employers an opportunity to reflect on the incredible potential that people with disabilities contribute to the 21st Century workforce.

National Disability Employment Awareness Month is a nationwide effort to help America's more than 50 million people with disabilities to obtain meaningful work and achieve the ADA's guarantee of equality of opportunity, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency.

The goals of the County's Disability Mentoring Day are to:

- Celebrate the 21st Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990;
- Serve as a launching point to promote and foster full participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of the American workforce;
- Promote access to profitable employment opportunities for people with disabilities, thereby endorsing full access to community life;
- Uphold the disability community as a vital component of diversity recruitment for a wide-ranging workforce, and dismiss employers' fears about hiring people with disabilities; and
- Enhance national effort to foster mentoring and career-exploration opportunities, thereby increasing the confidence among job seekers with disabilities.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors designates the month of October as “*Disability Awareness Month*” and proclaims October 17, 2012, as “*Disability Mentoring Day*” throughout Los Angeles County to raise awareness of people with disabilities in today’s society and 21st Century workforce.

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